Fed. music proj.

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

Federal Music Project of Massachusetts

Opus 1938 - 1939

June 30, 1939

To the Citizens of Massachusetts:

The Federal Music Project is happy to present the following report of recent activities.

We, as a project, pay tribute to our many friends and to the State Administrator, John J. McDonough, and his staff, whose sympathetic understanding have aided our work.

Thus, in a spirit of appreciation, we pause to thank those whose encouragement has made possible this project, who have assisted the needy musicians and advanced the future of music as an art in this State.

Sincerely yours,

Wm Hadden

State Director

Why a Federal Music Project?

Because the musician is a craftsman, an artist who earns his living by sharing his art with others, either by public performance or teaching,

BECAUSE, mechanical devices have destroyed the opportunities for public performance, and the economic situation has reduced the opportunities for teaching.

BECAUSE, the "talkies", "nickel-in-the-slot" machines and radio-chain broadcasting (a chain broadcast may employ one small group of musicians in one radio station and service fifty radio stations covering the entire nation) have in the space of afew years totally changed the employment picture for our musicians.

BECAUSE, in the city of Boston, alone, approximately three-hundred (300) musicians regularly earned their livelihood in theatres. During the past season only seven (7) men were steadily employed in theatrical work throughout the entire city.

BECAUSE, years of study, years of experience, and a lifetime service to the community were about to be thrown away as "not needed" in this, our civilization.

BECAUSE, the Federal Government would not allow such prodigious waste of talent. Conservation of the nation's resources called for the saving of the musical art and the skill of its executants.

THUS, the Federal Music Project is an outcome of an enlightened point of view which will allow no want of the necessities of life and will permit no diminution of the cultural assets of these United States.

Organization

Twelve hundred and fifty (1250) musicians are at present employed on this project in Massachusetts. Their need of employment has been certified by local welfare agencies in their home city or town. Their professional backgrounds have been formally attested to, and their ability has been proven before an impartial audition board of prominent musicians.

The musicians on the project are grouped into thirty-nine (39) units four symphony orchestras, ten bands, fourteen orchestras, four choruses and smaller ensembles.

The units are located in Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Newton, Quincy, Everett, Medford, Salem, Lynn, Haverhill, Brockton, Fall River, Taunton, New Bedford, Worcester, Fitchburg, Springfield and Chicopee.

Aims

The project's aim is two-fold, to retain the skill of the needy musician and to better equip and aid him for a speedy return to private employment. During the past twelve months 279 musicians have left for private employment. Unfortunately, many were forced to return due to the temporary nature of the work.

One entire unit -The Boston Federal Madrigal Singers- organized and trained under Federal auspices has left on a tour under private employment, of various colleges and universities in the South. Thus, under the policy of the Music Project, these singers have been aided to regain their places in private industry.

Eleven members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra are former employees of the Federal Music Project.

Our motto has always been: "Constant improvement"-for the sake of the individual musician, the project and the community.

Activities

From July 1, 1938 to June 30, 1939, we presented 3,715 concerts before an audience of 2,248,659 in the following 157 communities:

Abington
Agawam
Allston
Amesbury
Amherst
Arlington
Attleboro
Auburndale
Avon

Bayside
Beachmont
Bedford
Belmont
Beverly Farms
Boston
Bourne
Braintree
Bridgewater
Brighton
Brimfield
Brockton
Brookline

Cambridge
Charlestown
Chelsea
Chester
Chicopee
Cochituate
Cohasset

Danvers
Dartmouth
Dedham
Dighton
Dorchester
Dover
Dracut

East Boston
East Hampton
Easton
East Weymouth
Everett

Fairhaven
Fairview
Fall River
Fitchburg
Framingham

Gardner
Georgetown
Gloucester
Green Harbor

Hadley Falls
Haverhill
Hingham
Holbrook
Holliston
Holyoke
Hudson
Hull
Hyde Park

Indian Orchard
Ipswich

Jamaica Plain

Lakeville
Lawrence
Leominster
Longmeadow
Lowell
Ludlow
Lunenburg
Lynn

Malden
Marblehead
Marion
Marlboro
Marshfield
Mattapan
Mattapoisett
Medford
Melrose

Methuen
Middleboro
Middletown
Milton
Montclair

Natick
Needham
New Bedford
Newbury
Newburyport
Newton
Newton Center
Newton Upper Falls
Newtonville
Norfolk Downs
North Andover
Northampton
North Brookfield
North Weymouth
Norton
Norwell
Norwood

Oak Bluffs
Orange
Oxford

Peabody
Portland, Me
Pottersville

Quincy

Randolph
Reading
Revere
Roslindale
Roxbury
Rutland

Salem
Saugus
Saxonville
Scituate
Segragansett
Shawsheen
Shirley
Somerset
Somerville
South Boston
Southbridge
South Hadley
South Hanson
South Weymouth
Springfield
Squantum
Stoughton
Swampscott
Swansea

Taunton
Tewksbury
Topsfield
Turners Falls

Waban
Wakefield
Walpole
Waltham
Watertown
Wayland
Webster
Westboro
Westfield
West Newton
Weston
Westport
West Springfield
West Townsend
Weymouth
Weymouth Heights
Whitman
Wilbraham
Wollaston
Worcester

Type of Program

The programs of the Federal Music Project run the entire gamut of musical literature. Whatever your favorite music, a music project unit specializes in that type. Folk song? our colored groups sing them as they should be sung. Popular melodies? we sing and play them in the latest fashion. Martial music? listen to our bands. Symphony? do you prefer Beethoven or Tschaikowsky? Grand Opera? we sing it in English, making it more appealing and understandable to thousands. Oratorio? the music project is keeping this stately form of sacred music alive. Do you wonder that last year we attracted millions of persons to our concerts?

Non-Competitive

Federal Music Project activities are consistently non-competitive. Our aim is not to put the few remaining privately employed musicians out of work but to open up new fields for our unemployed musicians and in this way increase the future need for musical services.

Sponsored Concerts

In developing new fields we have encouraged paying audiences, groups of citizens who could form a nucleus for future self-support for our musicians. Such sponsorship has doubled in the past 12 months.

A few examples of recent sponsors are:

Whitman Kiwanis Club
Lawrence Turn Verein
Turners Falls Rotary Club
Norwood Teachers Association
Arlington American Legion Post
Boston Museum of Fine Arts
Regis College
Westfield Women's Club
Boston College
Massachusetts State College
Williston Academy
Wheaton College
Lions Club, Gloucester
Kiwanis Club, Brockton
Andover Teachers Association
Harvard University
Simmons College
Emmanuel College
Hudson Teachers Association
Bridgewater State Teachers College

From the Brockton Daily Enterprise:

"When Opera comes to Main Street and Main Street goes to Opera,it is more than a rally for the enjoyment and encouragement of one of the fine arts. Music lovers assist a good cause, advance appreciation, of good music, strengthen the city's cultural side. The Government has been praised often and critized as often for extending its bounty to the arts as well as to the crafts in time of distress. Except for such help, however, opera could not come to Main Street."

From the Lynn Item:

"Lynn lovers of the better things of life must be encouraged by the evidence of culture furnished by the presence of 8000 music lovers in the Manning Bowl this week to hear grand opera presented under floodlights by the Commonwealth Chorus and the State Symphony Orchestra under Federal Music Project auspices."

From the Fall River Herald News:

"The fine public concerts provided by the WPA band on Sunday evenings for the past two years, hit the popular fancy, delighting the thousands gathered to hear the strains of many of the popular and classical selections of the day.

From the Norwood Daily Messenger:

"There was a time when Norwood people rather looked down the nose at Federal Music Projects. That time is over. The concerts given by the teachers and the women's club in Junior High School were outstanding examples of the really magnificent work this group is doing. The capstone was put on the Federal Music plan in the three splendid Sinfoniettas which Orient Lodge has already sponsored at Masonic Temple. Federal Music has "arrived" as far as this town is concerned."

From the Dedham Transcript:

"If the bringing to Dedham of the Opera produced no other profit than what it brought of new musical interest to the boys and girls, Mr. Liddell and his assistants deserve much praise for conceiving and carrying out the project. But adults as well as young people enjoyed the Opera. With so excellent an opportunity as the.....Federal Orchestra and Chorus provides, why not see to it that Dedham has its share of this kind of music?"

Non-Labor Costs

In presenting sponsored concerts, we have received funds which have aided us in the proper operation of the Project.

In addition, good will created throughout the state induced many communities to contribute toward the non-labor expenses of our Project.

As a result, the Federal Government has contributed funds for labor, only, for the past year and a half, with Massachusetts residents paying for all items of non-labor. Every cent of Federal Money for the Federal Music Project has gone to the musicians in salaries.

School Concerts

The child is our future concert performer and audience. Thus, any aid that we could give in enriching his musical education would be an investment for the future.

With the cooperation of superintendents of schools, principals, music-supervisors, and teachers, we have done our utmost in developing our young music lovers. School authorities early recognized the value of this work. As a result, we are today unable to fill the demands for this our service.

During the past school year, we have presented music-appreciation concerts in 533 schools in 91 communities in Massachusetts. The concerts were 1468 in number and our youth-audience 699,107.

COMMENTS BY MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATORS

Mr. J. Clement Schuler, Director of Music, Springfield Trade School, Springfield

"Not only has it created and stimulated interest in our schools, but it has been a very definite educative force as well."

Mr. Herbert T. Rich, Headmaster, Brighton High School, Brighton

"I was very much pleased with the series of concerts given by your.....Symphony Orchestra. They were a rare musical treat and more than satisfied our anticipation."

Mr. Arthur P. Hauck, Director of Instrumental Music, Braintree High School, Braintree.

"The various student bodies have greatly enjoyed these concerts and the principals and teachers have commented most favorably on the high educational content of each concert."

Mr. Oscar F. Raymond, Winthrop District Principal, Brockton

"Now we all look forward to the concerts by this band as one of the educational features of our assemblies."

Mr. Walter F. Downey, Headmaster, English High School, Boston (Present Massachusetts Commissioner of Education)

"Over 700 students listened and were most enthusiastic in their reception of the Band."

Miss Edith Sullivan, Principal, Ashland School, Brockton

"We have gained a great deal of music appreciation from these concerts and eagerly await them from time to time."

Mr. Frederick J. Murphy, Master, Oliver Wendell Holmes Intermediate District, Dorchester.

"I want you to know that the teachers and the pupils enjoyed the concerts given by these artists most fully. We considered the programs a distinct contribution to our school life, valuable in the extreme."

Sister Mary Ernesta, Principal, Holy Trinity High School, Roxbury

"The concert given was very fine and the conductor's explanations of the selections offered were very instructive. Both teachers and pupils appreciated the concert."

Miss Dorothy C. Evans, Junior High East, Arlington

"The instrument demonstration reinforces our class work most ably."

Mr. John J. Desmond Jr., Superintendent of Schools, Chicopee

"It has been a pleasure for us to cooperate with you, and the results of my observation indicate to me that the pupils and the teachers have profited by these concerts." I trust that the program may continue next year."

Mr. John Kilmartin, Principal, School Department, Fitchburg

"The upper-grade teachers have had but instrument charts to illustrate orchestral instruments. The concrete form of presentation far surpasses this method."

Mr. Ernest Pitman, Principal, Richmond School, Danvers

"The principal, faculty, and student body of the Richmond School extend to you and your ..... Federal Band of the Works Progress Administration for Massachusetts a most sincere appreciation for the excellent, instructive, and entertaining program."

Rev. Francis J. Carroll, Principal, Bernard High School, Fitchburg

"I feel that the students got much of these performances. They were indeed worthwhile and I would like to see them continued."

Mr. Walter C. Cameron, Principal, Lincoln Jr. High School, Framingham

"I feel that this organization has really built up an appreciation of and a liking for good music among our boys and girls.....I certainly hope that this type of Federal Project will be continued."

Mr. John J. Lynch, Principal, H. B. Lawrence Jr. High School, Holyoke

"The Orchestra and Symphony were marvelously trained and were so earnest in their work that the spirit entered the souls of our youngsters.

I'm anxiously looking forward to their return next year. I'm happy that I had them in my building and that my pupils had the privilege of seeing and hearing them. Come again and often."

Mr. Harvey S. Gruver, Superintendent of Lynn Public Schools, Lynn

"While it has not been my privilege to attend all of these band and orchestra concerts, I did attend several and was very highly pleased with the type of music rendered."

Sister Francis Monica, S. T., Parochial Schools, Newton

"The children not only enjoyed, but gained much in the musical field from the demonstration. Each instrument was explained and its musical value shown. Such work is surely worthwhile.

Mr. William A. Welch, Superintendent of Schools, Peabody

"I wish to express my sincere thanks for the music appreciation programs which you are again furnishing to the schools of this city.

"In addition to the inherent value of the music and the explanation of the types of instrument, the attitudes, dispositions and conduct of your men during these performances serve as an excellent example for our children.

"I am strongly of the opinion that this project has well justified its institution and is of practical value to our children."

Mr. Ernest L. Collins, Headmaster, Quincy High School, Quincy

"Our anticipations regarding symphony concerts by your group were more than satisfied. We were gratified to learn that we had developed a real appreciation for such music among our young people. Your group, with the competent director, had much to give us, and they gave it very gladly. I have heard nothing but praise for the concerts and we are looking forward to another group of concerts next year."

Mr. Rudolph Sussman, Headmaster, High School, Reading

"This orchestra thrilled our school of six hundred students, and it contributed vastly to their appreciation of music."

Mr. Arthur E. Tierney, Principal, Mary T. Ronan School, Revere

"It was enjoyed by the five hundred pupils attending and speaks volumes for the work being performed by the unit.

"I hope the project lasts indefinitely and I look forward to a return visit."

Miss Vera C. Wentworth, Principal, Sweetser School, Saugus

"The leader chose a program of music that was both educational and entertaining.

"It is my sincere hope that the Music Project may continue,so that the boys and girls may enjoy more of these splendid, worthwhile programs."

Mr. Dwight S. Davis, Principal, Senior High School, Leominster

"You will be interested to know that the.....Federal Orchestra which played here, May 17, to about seven hundred students, presented a program which was entertaining as well as educational.

"I do hope that our own government will emulate the example of European nations in maintaining enough Federal orchestras to aid in the musical education of our boys and girls. At present there are no other means available for educating these young people in the beauty of symphony orchestration."

Mr. Arthur F. Marshall, Principal, Shepard School, Lynn

"Such concerts are a definite contribution to education, and you and your associates are to be congratulated on your excellent showing."

Mr. Edwin A. Damon, Principal, Pickering Jr. High School, Lynn

"The music has been very well adapted to the understanding of the pupils and interestingly described and presented. Because of the training of the members of the band we are confident that the pupils have had a rare opportunity to become appreciative of good band music rendered by able musicians.

"We are hopeful that these concerts may continue to be held and that we may be privileged to enjoy them during the next school year."

Sister John Ignatius, St. Mary's Boys' High School, Lynn

"You will never know what it meant to our boys. They appreciated every minute of it."

Mr. Earl F. H. Emerson, Director, Industrial Arts Division of the Senior High Schools, Lynn

"We deeply appreciated the interest you have displayed in making it possible for us to enjoy the music of your organization. We feel that these concerts make a valuable contribution to the lives of our students."

Mr. Charles H. Woodbury, Principal, Roosevelt School, Melrose

"They presented an instructive and highly appreciated program."

Mr. Howard R. Randall, Principal, School Department, Stoughton

"Your program was both entertaining and educative, an objective for which we strive in each assembly."

Mr. Herbert H. Archibald, Headmaster, Senior High School, Watertown

"Indeed the concerts were very well given here at the Watertown Senior High School and we are looking forward to another series of three concerts next year. I believe you are rendering a very distinct service to the youth of today in building up better appreciation for the fine work in music. Keep up the good work."

Mr. E. Leo Madden, Principal, Bicknell School, North Weymouth

"It was very entertaining as well as instructive and hope we may have return dates in the near future."

Mr. Everett G. Sherwin, Principal, North High School, Worcester

"These concerts were extremely high grade. The beautiful classical music introduced by informative talks by the director were of definite educational value."

Miss Marion D. Twiss, Principal, Roosevelt School, Worcester

"Thank you for a delightful and worthwhile program."

Miss Grace A. Gilkey, Director, David Hale Fanning Trade School for Girls, Worcester

"We do appreciate this service. I feel that the girls get much of cultural value from the excellent concerts....."

Mr. William F. Butler, Lamartine Street School, Worcester

"Our pupils have enjoyed and profited very much by the concerts given by your units at the school.

"Our children do not get much opportunity to hear good music well played and so we have been very grateful to the musicians who have come and given them worthwhile concerts."

Mr. Harry C. Darling, The Huntington School District, Brockton

"WPA band concerts were first admitted to our school program grudgingly. We felt it a necessary act of charity. Now we consider listening to the concerts a privilege and an educational opportunity. Time is gladly alloted for them."

Institutions

Old Peoples' Homes, Children's Homes, Hospitals, Veterans' Homes, institutions of every description, are regularly visited by our instrumentalists and singers. It is our joy to be of service in these homes.

As one State Institution doctor recently stated: "This takes care of their mental troubles ----our worst enemy."

During the past twelve-month period, we presented 846 concerts in the following 86 institutions:

ATTLEBORO
Attleboro Sanatorium
Bristol County Hospital

BEDFORD
U. S. Veterans' Hospital

BOSTON
Mass. General Hospital
Home for the Aged
Home for Aged Women
Prendergast Preventorium
Channing Home
Health Unit (Blossom Street)
Ladies' Helping Hand Home
Dennison House
Lincoln House
Boston State Hospital
Health Unit (North Margin Street)
Shaw House
Altenheim Home
Roxbury Neighborhood House
Mt. Pleasant Home
Harriet Tubman House
House of the Angel Guardian
Home for Destitute Catholic Children
Trinity House
Boston Seamen's Friend Society
Infirmary
Catherine Moore House
Loring-Greenough House
Charlestown State Prison
Home for Aged Colored Women
West End Community House
Soldiers-Sailors Club
Jamaica Plain Neighborhood House

BRAINTREE
Norfolk County Hospital

BROCKTON
Wales Home for the Aged

CAMBRIDGE
Home for Aged
Margaret Fuller House
Cambridge Sanatorium
Cambridge Neighborhood House
Holy Ghost Hospital

CHELSEA
Soldiers' Home
Marine Hospital

CHICOPEE
Chicopee City Infirmary

DANVERS
Danvers State Hospital

FALL RIVER
Home for the Aged
Tuberculosis Hospital
City Home

FITCHBURG
City Infirmary
Burbank Hospital
Old Ladies Home

HOLYOKE
Holyoke City Home
Brightside Institution
Beaver-Kelly Home

LAKEVILLE
Lakeville Sanatorium

LAWRENCE
Burke Memorial Hospital

LOWELL
Chelmsford Street Hospital
St. John's Hospital

LYNN
Lynn Hospital

MALDEN
Maldon Home for the Aged
City Infirmary
Harriet E. Sawyer Home
Community House

MIDDLETON
Essex Sanatorium

NEW BEDFORD
Sassaquin Sanatorium

NEWTON
Home for the Aged

NORTHAMPTON
Northampton State Hospital
Leeds Veteran Hospital

RUTLAND
U. S. Veterans Hospital

SALEM
Salem Health Camp

SOUTH HANSON
Plymouth County Hospital

SPRINGFIELD
Home for Aged Women
Convent of Good Shepherd
Home for Aged Men
City Infirmary
Springfield Isolation Hospital

TAUNTON
Taunton State Hospital

TEWKSBURY
Tewksbury State Hospital

WALTHAM
Metropolitan State Hospital

WESTBORO
Westboro State Hospital

WEST NEWBURY
House of the Angel Guardian

WEYMOUTH
Weymouth Hospital

WORCESTER
Summer Street Hospital
Home for Aged Men
Worcester State Hospital
Home Farm
Worcester City Hospital
Belmont Hospital
Home for Aged Women

Summer Performances

The summer time wouldn't be complete without band concerts in the parks. The Music Project is doing its share toward carrying on this pleasant tradition. Throughout the state, in countless parks, our units are making hot summer evenings more enjoyable for thousands who might otherwise have little or no recreation.

Here are some of the parks where our units are playing this summer.

Forest Park
Springfield

Boston Common

South Common
Lowell

Brooklawn Park
New Bedford

Ward Park
Marlboro

South Lawrence Common

Angle Pond
Haverhill

Salem Willows

Lynn Common

Crocker Park
Marblehead

Amesbury Park

Hopkinton Common

Hickey Park
Medford

Town Hall Plaza
Webster

Waltham Common

Barry Park
Medford

Foss Park
Somerville

Lafayette Park
Fall River

Buttonwood Park
New Bedford

Lake View
Worcester

Dorchester Park
Boston

G.A.R. Park
Haverhill

Tufts Park
South Medford

Composers' Forum Laboratory

The chief function of the Composers' Forum has been to encourage native creators of music. A voluntary committee of prominent musicians has regularly inspected manuscripts submitted by New England composers. Rehearsal-readings have been arranged much to the profit of the composers. In addition many a public performance has brought to the American people worthwhile works which otherwise could not have received recognition.

122 Manuscripts have been received during the past year of which 83 were accepted for possible performance.

This encouragement of American composers has awakened the public to the fact that we have in this country worthwhile composers of worthwhile music.

Teachers' Division

Music-teachers in need and children from impoverished families here join hands in aiding each other. The teacher is restored to his rightful usefulness in society and the child receives music instruction which, but for the Federal Music Project, it could not afford. An average of 3,000 pupils are thus taught each week and a ray of sunshine has entered 3,000 otherwise desolate homes.

SOME CITIES AND TOWNS WHERE TEACHERS DIVISION IS OPERATING

Abington	Medford
Boston	Milton
Braintree	Quincy
Cambridge	Randolph
Chicopee	Revere
Dedham	Salem
East Weymouth	Somerville
Everett	South Hadley
Fall River	Springfield
Framingham	Waltham
Holbrook	Wellesley
Holyoke	Westfield
Lowell	West Springfield
Ludlow	Woburn
Lynn	Worcester
Malden	Watertown

In every instance. free teaching space is donated by local citizens for the use of the projects.

The Average Musician

The average musician employed is a seasoned artist.

His average age is 42.4 years

average musical study 6.6 years

average employment 17.7 years

(257 Theatre-musicians - 25 years

107 Band musicians - 17.8 years

324 Dance musicians - 12.6 years

The average musician is too old to learn a new profession or trade; he has invested much money and a number of years in study of the art; he has served his community well during the best part of his life - he is willing to continue this service.

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
Division of Professional and Service Projects
FLORENCE S. KERR Assistant Administrator
JOHN J. McDONOUGH State Administrator
The Federal Music Project
WILLIAM C. MAYFARTH Deputy Director
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WILLIAM HADDON State Director

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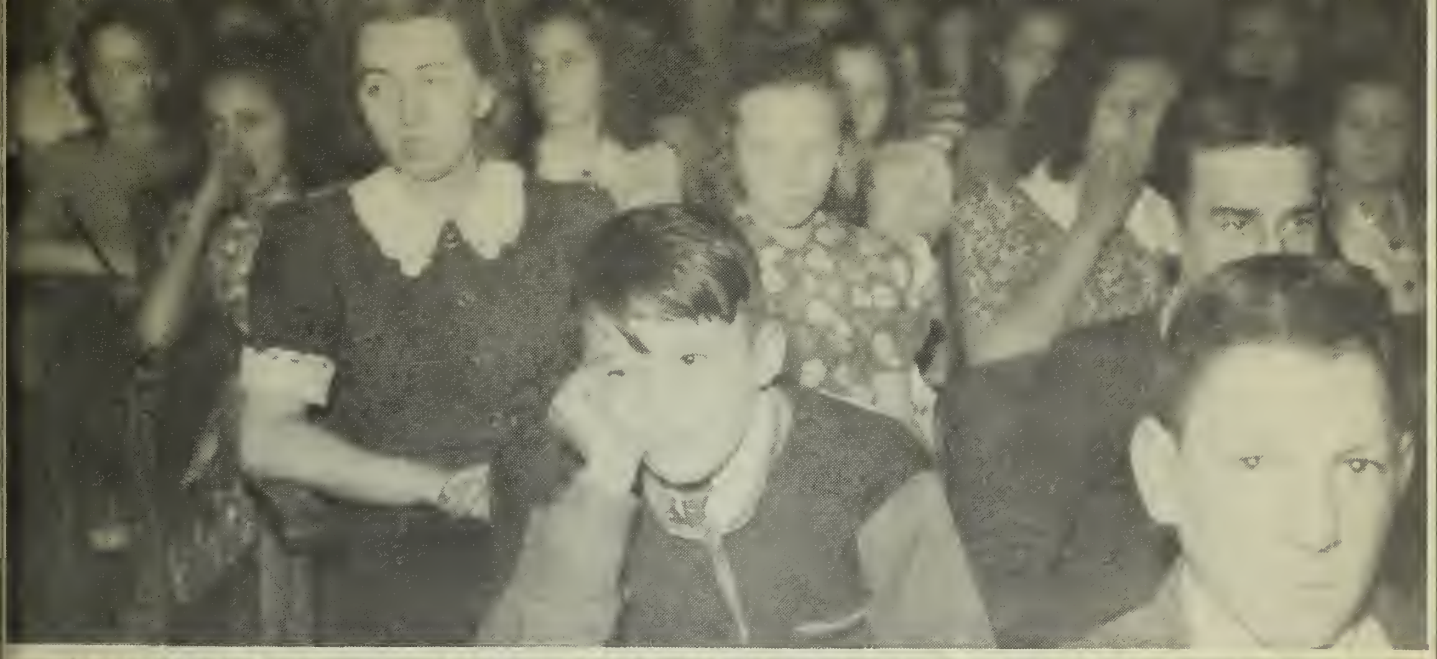


KIWANIS
STOCKTON